

# FULL HOUSE | 20 YEARS

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS IN CHILDREN'S THEATRE!

## ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021





## HELLO FROM OUR CREATIVE DIRECTORS



“What a year! Whilst it has been incredibly challenging, it has also been joyful: to see so many happy faces on our Art Town Zoom calls; to work with a host of talented local creatives at outdoor shows and workshops; welcoming families to our activities when we were allowed to and visiting them to drop off creative packs when we weren't. It's been wonderful to get involved with fantastic initiatives across the sector and make plans for the coming months. We're excited about what comes next as we head into the brighter days of 2021.”

— BEN MILES, JOINT CREATIVE DIRECTOR (CEO).

“We could never have known when we welcomed nearly 1,700 children and their families into venues across Luton last February what the year was about to bring. Following a tough March and April as we all headed into lockdown, we made a plan as an organisation to meet the needs of our local community: to mobilise not mothball. Over the following months, we reached out to children digitally, on doorsteps, outdoors, masked and socially-distanced...and achieved more than we imagined was possible back in those dark days of March 2020. Thank you to all the children, families and everyone else we've worked with this year, together we know we can emerge stronger and better than ever before.”

— HARRIET HARDIE, JOINT CREATIVE DIRECTOR (CEO).



## VISION

For every **child** to hold treasured memories of theatre.



## MISSION

With our audience at the **heart** of our work we carefully craft, programme and develop theatre and performance projects for, by and with **children** and **young people**. We exist to enrich young **creative** minds, delight young **audiences**, and nurture a lifelong connection with the arts. **Full House** is committed to **listening** and responding to the **needs** of our audience, reaching out to all corners of the **community** to create lasting **memories**.



## OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

816

children and their families took part in outdoor and socially distanced creative workshops

30

live theatre performances

500

We delivered creative packs to the doorsteps of 150 children and young people in Houghton Regis

1,984

children and their families saw shows and took part in activities at Feb Fest and Houghton Regis Hullabaloo festivals

260

pairs of wellies danced and stomped through Houghton Hall Park for Art Town Tots Go Wild in Wellies



"I am so proud of everything Full House has managed to achieve this year, from festivals to digital streaming, and partnering with cultural organisations far and wide. They have made a huge difference to the lives of so many children and young people at a time when they have needed it most."

— PROFESSOR SALLY MACKEY,  
CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

"We love Full House and they're never less than magical."

— FAMILY FEEDBACK, LITTLE DARLING FEBRUARY 2020.



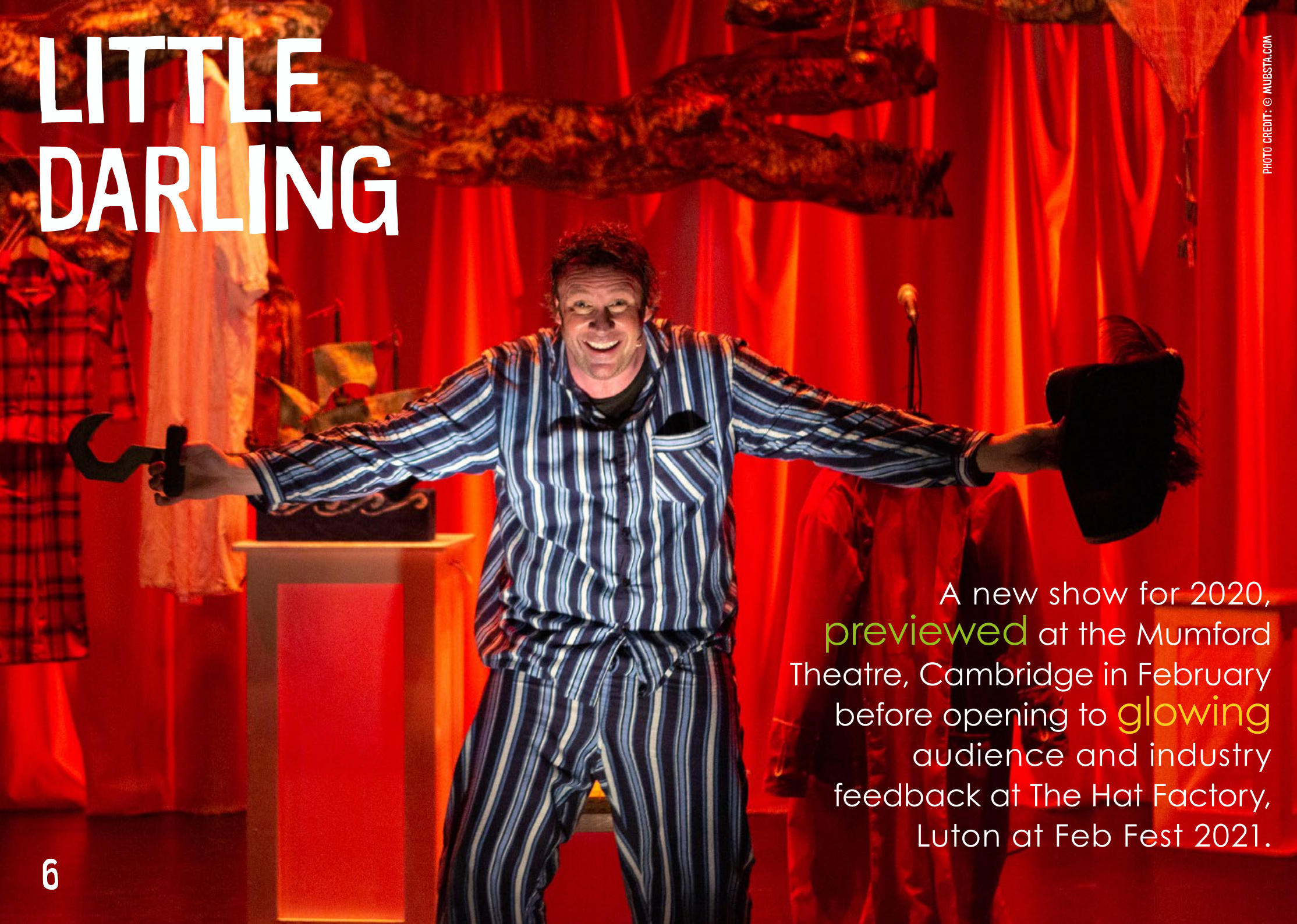


PHOTO CREDIT: © MUBSTA.COM

A new show for 2020, **previewed** at the Mumford Theatre, Cambridge in February before opening to **glowing** audience and industry feedback at The Hat Factory, Luton at Feb Fest 2021.



PHOTO CREDIT: © MUBSTA.COM

"This one-man show fills the stage with all the wonders of Neverland and casts us off on an adventure we will never forget."  
- IAN MORLEY, HEAD OF PROGRAMMING & ARTIST DEVELOPMENT, THE CIVIC BARNSELY

"Little Darling is a delight. Full House have created a visually stunning and emotionally moving piece."  
- RACHAEL DONLAN, LIBRARY THEATRE PROGRAMMER, THE CULTURE TRUST LUTON.





# HOUGHTON REGIS ART TOWN

Our creative outreach sessions for the under 5s moved outdoors to Houghton Hall Park in the autumn with singing SU and Art Town Tots Go Wild in Wellies....

*"Loved the thought and effort put into each session."*

- PARENT FEEDBACK

*"Highlight of our week."*

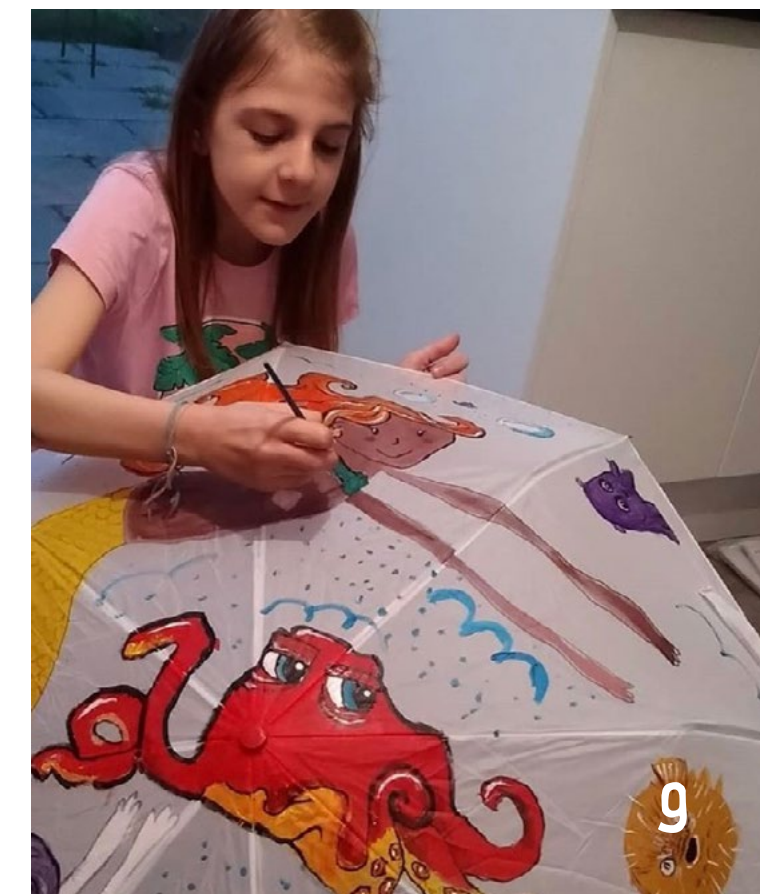
- PARENT FEEDBACK



*"I have really enjoyed the remote sessions because there is the safety for me and my family whilst also still having fun and seeing people I have missed."*

- ART TOWN PARTICIPANT

...whilst Art Town sessions for ages 5 – 18 years in Houghton Regis moved **online**, with **activity** packs delivered to the doors of participants for weekly Zoom sessions led by **local** artists, including spoken word, **puppetry**, dance, crafts and more.







# ART TOWN PROGRAMMED ACTIVITIES

Through our **Houghton Regis** Art Town community outreach programme, we were also able to offer **creative workshops** during the summer and October half term, from mosaic making to circus skills, drama and South Asian dance.

In December, **60** children and their families came in their bubbles to see **The Gingerbread Man** by Theatre of Widdershins at Houghton Regis Memorial Hall.

*"Absolutely wonderful.  
Thank you. I loved seeing  
how alive and engaged my  
son was with the show."*

*- AUDIENCE FEEDBACK, THE  
GINGERBREAD MAN DECEMBER 2020*



# PULPITS & PRISON DOORS

*"Absolutely brilliant!  
Very well organised.  
Children loved it!  
Very educational.  
Highly recommend!"*

*- TEACHER FEEDBACK*

In February we visited residents of Bedford Prison to talk about their experiences as parents, and modern prison life. How lucky we were then in March to welcome nearly **500** of Bedford's school children to the John Bunyan Museum for our **interactive** experience Pulpits and Prison Doors, giving children the opportunity to learn all about the life of Bedford's most famous prisoner **John Bunyan** and his book A Pilgrim's Progress.





## FESTIVALS: FEB FEST

At our flagship festival **Luton's** Full House Feb Fest in February, **1,666** children and their grown-ups attended shows and took part in creative **activities** across Luton. We also welcomed delegates from national and local venues to see what the Feb Fest **fun** is all about.



PHOTO CREDIT: PAUL BLAKEMORE FOR THEATRE AD INFINITUM, CHLOE AND THE COLOUR CATCHER.



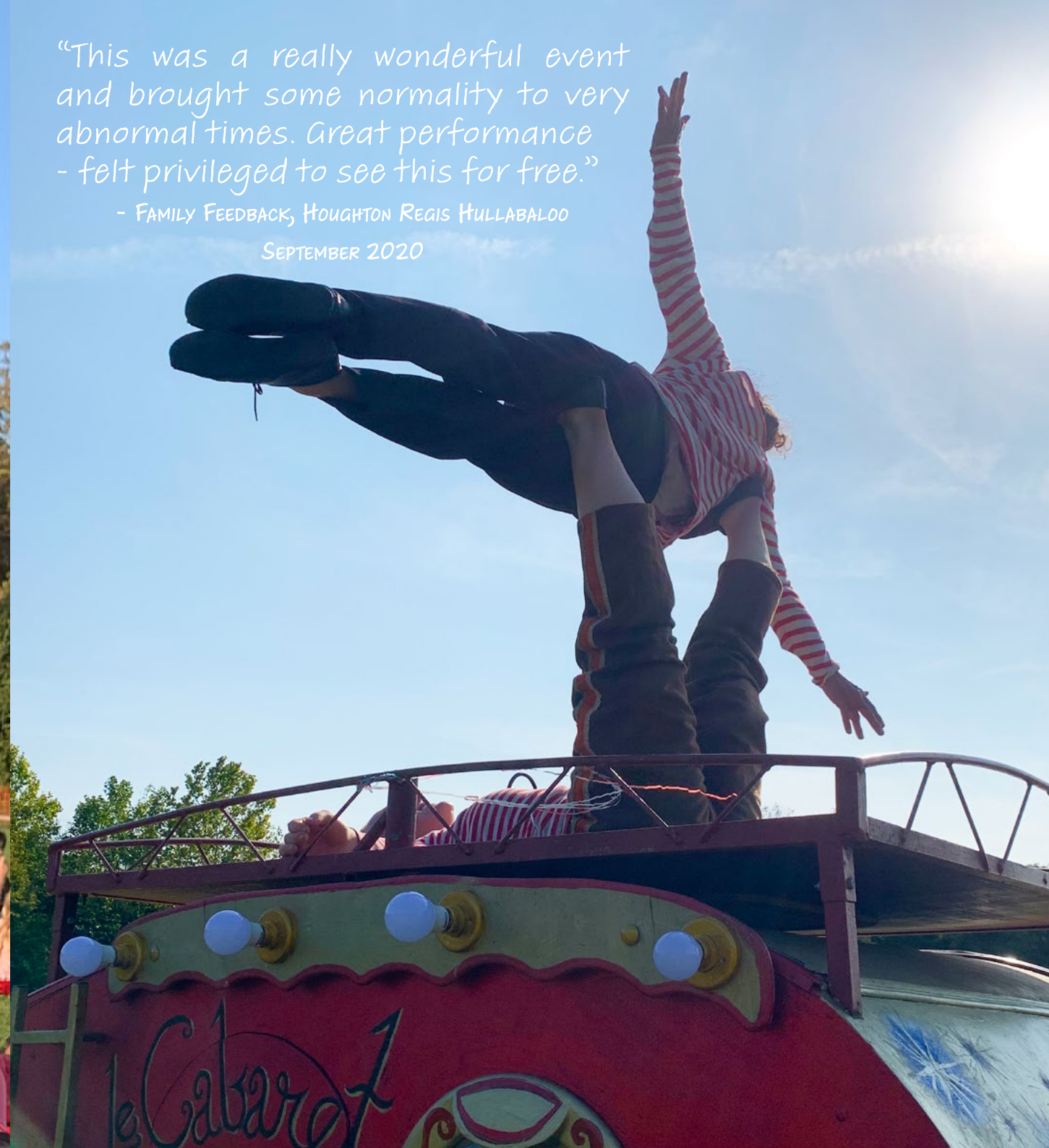
# FESTIVALS: HULLABALOO



*"This was a really wonderful event and brought some normality to very abnormal times. Great performance - felt privileged to see this for free."*

- FAMILY FEEDBACK, HOUGHTON REGIS HULLABALOO

SEPTEMBER 2020



Houghton Regis families came together in September for our outdoor festival **Hullabaloo** to enjoy Circo Rum Ba Ba's circus theatre show '**L'Hotel**' and take part in a range of creative **activities** with workshops run by local artists. To close the event, Art Town participants came together for a community picnic with special guests **The Bugs**.







Destine Lord

We continue to listen to the needs of our **community**, participants and audiences, as well as the **voices** of our sector.

In January, we welcomed **Destine Lord** to our team as Diversity and Inclusion Associate.

We are active members of **Local** Cultural Education Partnerships and local authority Cultural Strategy groups, as well as A Different Way consortium led by Daryl Beeton, and PYA England.

We have continued our **strategic** partnership programme Next Steps, leading CPD, quality programming and Go & See **opportunities** for children's theatre programmers.

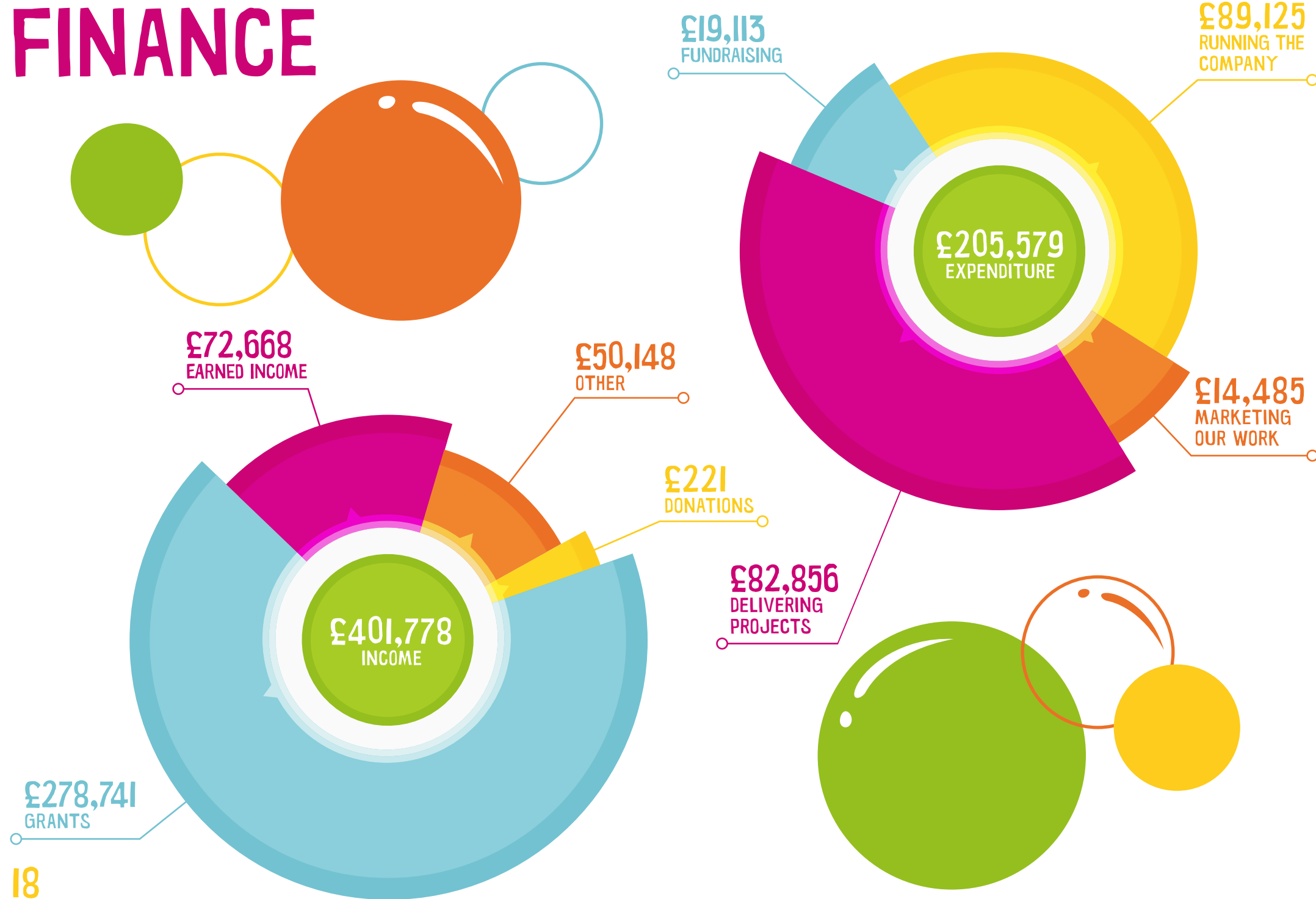


Throughout 2020/21 we have sought to find **new** and **innovative** ways to continue to meet the needs of our community, **supporting** those most disproportionately affected by the impacts of COVID-19, from socially distanced summer schools for vulnerable children, to outdoor work for local families, online creative **SEND** activities, and free Covid-safe workshops.

# LEADING & LEARNING



# FINANCE



# THANK YOU

With **thanks** to everyone we have worked with during 2020/21, and to all who have **supported** us.







# FULL HOUSE THEATRE

12 Kings Arms Yard, Ampthill,  
Bedfordshire, MK45 2PJ

 01525 630783

  fullhousetheatre

 [www.fullhouse.org.uk](http://www.fullhouse.org.uk)

 @fullhousetheaco

 [info@fullhouse.org.uk](mailto:info@fullhouse.org.uk)